

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method comprising:

an input step of sequentially inputting image data
corresponding to plural partial areas obtained by
5 dividing one-page image;

a judgment step of judging whether the input image
data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area;

a detection step of detecting whether or not the
image data corresponding to the non-margin area
10 represents at least a part of a specific image; and

a control step of controlling printing output of
the image data corresponding to the non-margin area, in
accordance with the detected result in said detection
step.

15 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the
printing output is performed in the unit of band
obtained by dividing one page, and the each partial
area corresponds to each band.

20 3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein when a
ratio of margin pixels included in the image
represented by the input image data is equal to or
larger than a predetermined value, said judgment step
25 judges that the input image data corresponds to the
margin area.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said detection step detects whether or not predetermined electronic watermark information has been embedded in the image data corresponding to the non-margin area.

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5. A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program including:

an input step of sequentially inputting image data corresponding to plural partial areas obtained by dividing one-page image;

a judgment step of judging whether the input image data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area;

a detection step of detecting whether or not the image data corresponding to the non-margin area represents at least a part of a specific image; and

a control step of controlling printing output of the image data corresponding to the non-margin area, in accordance with the detected result in said detection step.

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6. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for sequentially inputting image data corresponding to plural partial areas obtained by dividing one-page image;

judgment means for judging whether the input image data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area;

detection means for detecting whether or not the

image data corresponding to the non-margin area
represents at least a part of a specific image; and

control means for controlling printing output of
the image data corresponding to the non-margin area, in
5 accordance with the detected result of said detection
means.

7. An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting image information
10 according to an image;

a block selection step of selecting, in the image
information input in said input step, the image
information of a block having a predetermined size;

a specific image judgment step of judging whether
15 or not the input image corresponds to a specific image
having a predetermined feature, in accordance with the
image information of the block; and

a process step of processing the input image in
accordance with the judged result in said specific
20 image judgment step.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said
block selection step selects the blocks arranged at
dispersed positions.

25 9. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said
block selection step selects the blocks arranged at

random positions.

10. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said
block selection step selects the blocks arranged at a
5 certain interval.

11. A method according to Claim 7, wherein, when
it is judged in said specific image judgment step that
the input image corresponds to the specific image, said
10 process step stops inputting of the image.

12. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said
specific image judgment step judges whether or not the
input image corresponds to the specific image, by
15 extracting an electronic watermark of the input image
with a software process.

13. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the
image is input by a flatbed scanner.

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14. A method according to Claim 7, wherein, when
it is judged in said specific image judgment step that
the input image corresponds to the specific image, said
process step does not perform a printer driver process
25 to the input image.

15. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said

process step displays the judged result in said specific image judgment step.

16. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the
5 blocks are selected like checkers.

17. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said
input step inputs the image information of a band area
having a predetermined size from the image, and said
10 block selection step selects the image information of
the block having the predetermined size within the band
area.

18. A storage medium which computer-readably
15 stores a program including:

an input step of inputting image information
according to an image;

a block selection step of selecting, in the image
information input in said input step, the image
20 information of a block having a predetermined size;

a specific image judgment step of judging whether
or not the input image corresponds to a specific image
having a predetermined feature, in accordance with the
image information of the block; and

25 a process step of processing the input image in
accordance with the judged result in said specific
image judgment step.

19. An image processing apparatus comprising:
input means for inputting image information
according to an image;

block selection means for selecting, in the image
5 information input by said input means, the image
information of a block having a predetermined size;

specific image judgment means for judging whether
or not the input image corresponds to a specific image
having a predetermined feature, in accordance with the
10 image information of the block; and

process means for processing the input image in
accordance with the judged result of said specific
image judgment means.

15 20. An image processing method comprising:
an input step of inputting image information
according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data
corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in
20 the image information input in said input step, whether
or not the image data is a part of a specific image,

wherein said judgment step performs the judgment
not to the entire image information input in said input
step but to a part of the image information.

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21. A storage medium which computer-readably
stores a program including:

an input step of inputting image information
according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data
corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in
5 the image information input in said input step, whether
or not the image data is a part of a specific image,
wherein said judgment step performs the judgment
not to the entire image information input in said input
step but to a part of the image information.

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22. An image processing apparatus comprising:
input means for inputting image information
according to an image; and

judgment means for judging, for each image data
15 corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in
the image information input by said input means,
whether or not the image data is a part of a specific
image,

wherein said judgment means performs the judgment
20 not to the entire image information input by said input
means but to a part of the image information.

23. An image processing method comprising:
an input step of inputting image information
25 according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data
corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in

the image information input in said input step, whether or not the image data is a part of a specific image,

wherein said judgment step performs the judgment not to the entire image information input in said input
5 step but to a part of the image information, by periodically judging each block area.

24. A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program including:

10 an input step of inputting image information according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in the image information input in said input step, whether
15 or not the image data is a part of a specific image,

wherein said judgment step performs the judgment not to the entire image information input in said input step but to a part of the image information, by periodically judging each block area.

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25. An image processing apparatus comprising:
input means for inputting image information according to an image; and

judgment means for judging, for each image data
25 corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in the image information input by said input means, whether or not the image data is a part of a specific

image,

wherein said judgment means performs the judgment not to the entire image information input by said input means but to a part of the image information, by

5 periodically judging each block area.